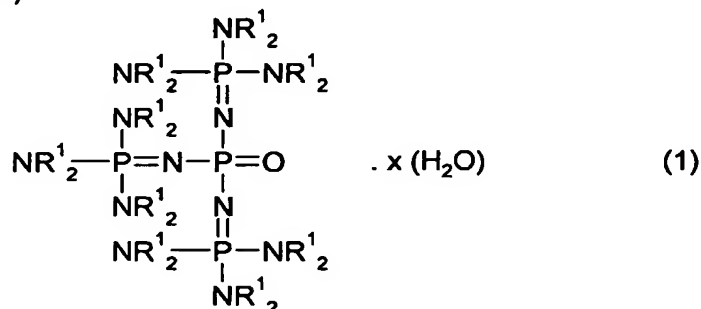


GUIDE TO THE AMENDED CLAIMS FILED JUNE 2006

1. A thermosetting polyamide foam prepared by reacting a polyisocyanate compound with a polyester polycarboxylic acid using a compound having a P=N bond as a catalyst under conditions of an NCO index of not less than 1.6.
2. ~~A~~ The thermosetting polyamide foam according to claim 1, wherein the polyester polycarboxylic acid has an acid value of not less than 20 mgKOH/g and not more than 70 mgKOH/g, and a hydroxyl number of not more than 1/8 of the acid value.
3. ~~A~~ The thermosetting polyamide foam according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the NCO index is not less than 2.0 and not more than 3.0.
4. A method ~~of for~~ producing a thermosetting polyamide comprising:  
 reacting a polyisocyanate compound with a polycarboxylic acid using:  
 (a) a phosphine oxide compound represented by the following chemical formula (1):

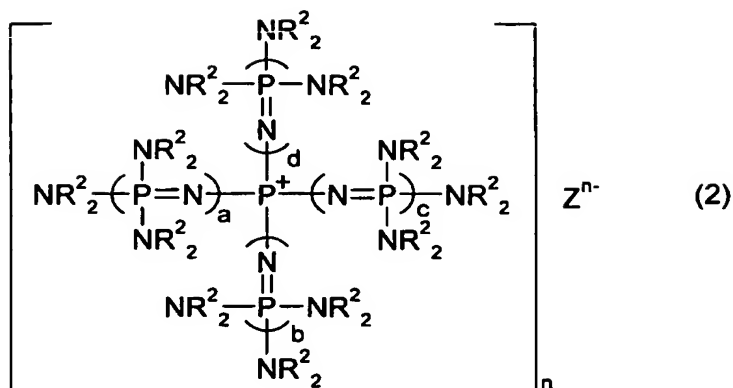


wherein:

R<sup>1</sup>'s are independently a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and two R<sup>1</sup>'s on one nitrogen atom may bind to each other to form a cyclic structure;

x, which denotes the amount of water contained in terms of molar ratio, is in the range of 0 to 5.0;

(b) a phosphazanium salt of an active hydrogen compound represented by the following chemical formula (2):



wherein:

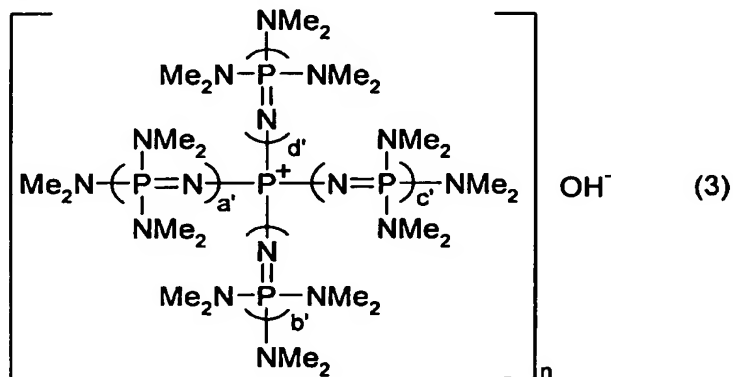
$n$ , which is the number of phosphazanium cation, is an integer from of 1 to 8;

$\text{Z}^{n-}$  is an  $n$ -valent anion of an active hydrogen compound induced by elimination of  $n$ -protons from the active hydrogen compound having up to 8 active hydrogen atoms on an oxygen atom or on a nitrogen atom;

$a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  and  $d$  are independently a positive integer of not more than 3 or zero, except that all of them can not be zero simultaneously; and

$\text{R}^2$ 's are independently a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and two  $\text{R}^2$ 's on one nitrogen atom may bind to each other to form a cyclic structure; or

(c) a hydroxyl phosphazanium represented by the following chemical formula (3):



wherein:

Me is methyl; and

$a'$ ,  $b'$ ,  $c'$  and  $d'$  are independently 0 or 1, except that all of them cannot be zero simultaneously.

5. A thermosetting polyamide foam prepared by reacting a polyisocyanate compound with a polyester polycarboxylic acid using a catalyst substantially decomposed at a service temperature of the thermosetting polyamide foam.

- | 6. ~~A~~ The thermosetting polyamide foam according to claim 5, wherein the service temperature of the thermosetting polyamide foam is not less than 130°C and less than a decomposition temperature of the thermosetting polyamide foam.
- | 7. ~~A~~ The thermosetting polyamide foam according to claim 5, wherein the catalyst substantially decomposed at a service temperature of the thermosetting polyamide foam is used together with a tertiary amine compound catalyst.
- | 8. ~~A~~ The thermosetting polyamide foam according to claim 5, wherein the catalyst substantially decomposed at a service temperature of the thermosetting polyamide foam is used together with an alkali metal carboxylate catalyst and/or an alkaline-earth metal carboxylate catalyst.
- | 9. ~~A~~ The thermosetting polyamide foam according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the amount of the catalyst used in combination with the catalyst substantially decomposed at a service temperature of the thermosetting polyamide foam is less than 50% by weight of the amount of the catalyst substantially decomposed at a service temperature of the thermosetting polyamide foam.
- | 10. A heat-resistant vibration damper comprising ~~a~~ the thermosetting polyamide foam according to any one of claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 9. ~~claim 1 or 5.~~
- | 11. A heat-resistant sound absorbing material comprising the thermosetting polyamide foam according to any one of claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 9. ~~claim 1 or 5.~~
- | 12. A heat-resistant cushioning material comprising the thermosetting polyamide foam according to any one of claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 9. ~~claim 1 or 5.~~